

12 January 1955

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Portrait of General Donovan

1. While there is no law or regulation that specifically authorizes the expenditure of Government funds for portraits of officials, it has become a tradition that successive Presidents, Cabinet Members, and Heads of Agencies do have their portraits painted, either while in office or later.
2. The Commission of Fine Arts, of which Mr. David F. Finley is the Chairman, is charged with passing on all art matters for the Government. However, Mr. Finley says their authority regarding portraits is quite informal and they approve any good likeness by a recognized painter. In actual practice it is customary to obtain advance approval of the painter who is to be selected.
3. Invitations may be sent to several portrait painters, whose names have been previously cleared with the Fine Arts Commission, inquiring whether they would be interested in painting a portrait and asking them to submit an offer, which must be less than a stipulated maximum amount. This method provides technical compliance with the formalities of Government purchasing procedure.
4. Regarding the cost of such portraits, an informal limit of \$1,500 has been the ceiling for many years, but this is not sufficient nowadays to attract leading painters and certain departments are now going as high as \$2,500. Even this is less than outstanding artists charge for such work, but the opportunity to paint a portrait of a distinguished official which will be hung permanently in Washington, is attractive enough to persuade them to reduce their normal rates.
5. Regarding the method of payment, the Comptroller recommends that this be made with unvouchered funds from the Director's allotment, subject only to the limitations that we do not exceed \$2,500 and that we obtain approval of the Fine Arts Commission. He also believes that it would be advisable to get more than one painter to submit offers as mentioned above.

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H. GATES LLOYD  
Assistant Deputy Director  
(Administration)

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